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Felon Sentenced to Prison for Child Molestation

A 42-year-old felon convicted of sexually assaulting a minor was sentenced today to 23 years in state prison, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Robert Santos Arvizu pleaded no contest on July 30 to a felony count of forcible lewd act upon child. Also, the defendant admitted to a prior conviction for first-degree residential burglary in 2000.

At today's sentencing, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Tia Fisher also ordered Arvizu to register as a sex offender for life.

Deputy District Attorney Cynthia Valenzuela, who prosecuted the case, said Arvizu had been released from prison and was living with a female family member for several months.

On Feb. 2, the woman left her three children with the defendant while she ran an errand, the prosecutor said.

While the mother was away, Arvizu grabbed one of the children, a young girl, and began inappropriately touching her. When the girl tried to get away, the defendant pulled her back and continued to assault her, the prosecutor said.

When the mother returned home, the girl told her about the attack. The mother called police and Arvizu was arrested two days later.

The case was investigated by the Azusa Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.